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Baker, Oregon 97814



# **Baker Resource Management Plan**

## **Proposed Land Use Alternatives**

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.07  
L36  
1985  
c.2





Cover: Little Lookout Mountain, seen from Big Lookout Mountain, Baker County.

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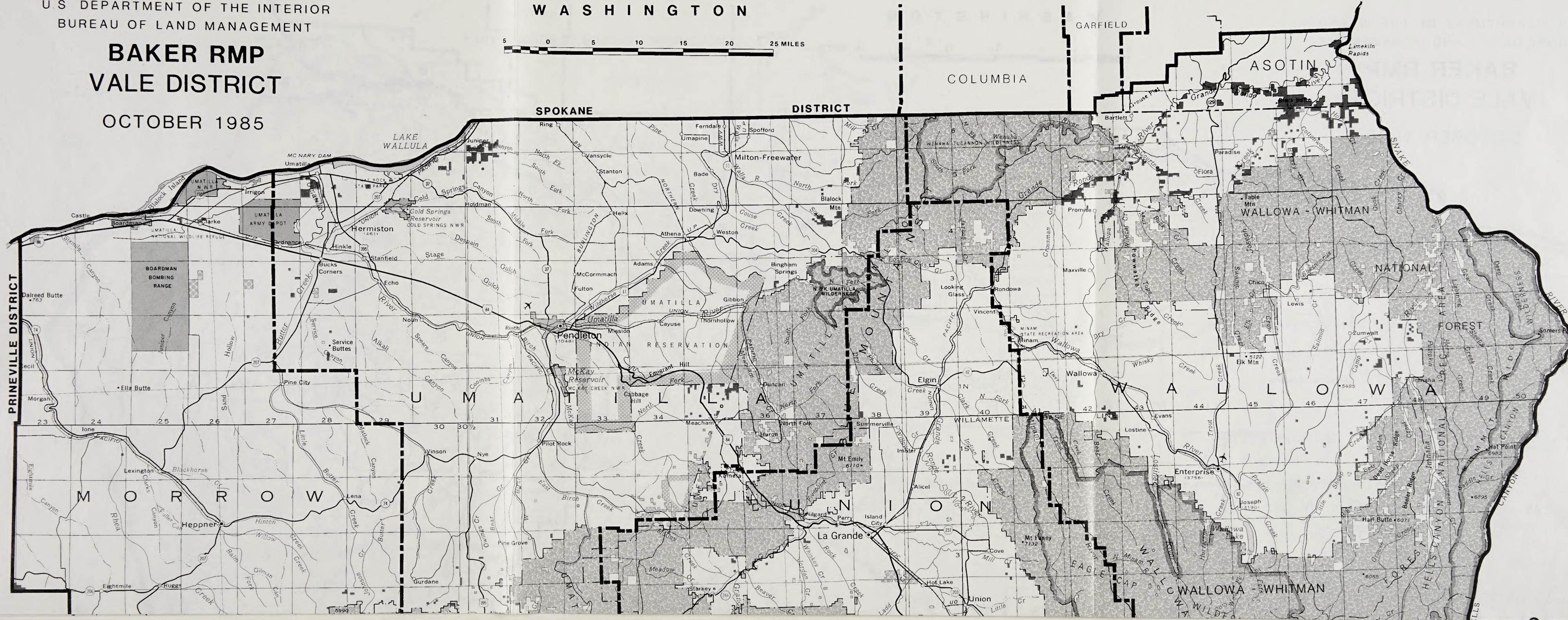
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

# BAKER RMP VALE DISTRICT

OCTOBER 1985

WASHINGTON

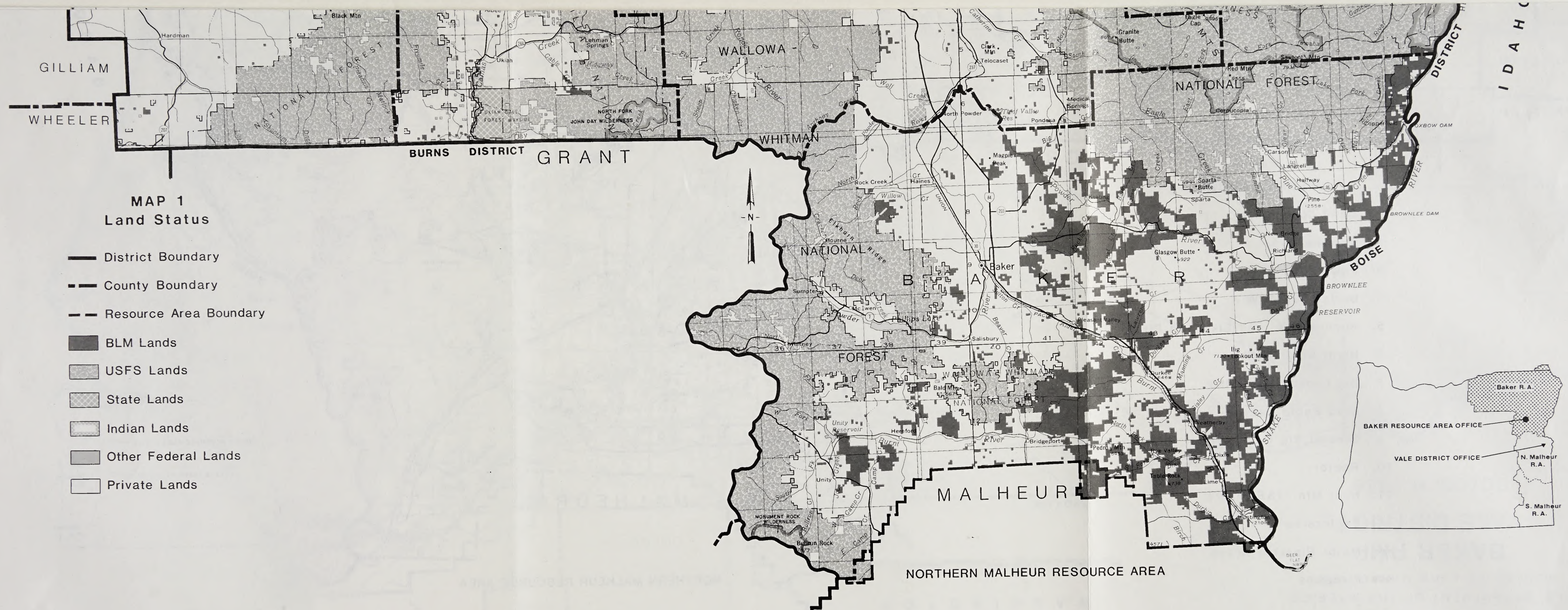
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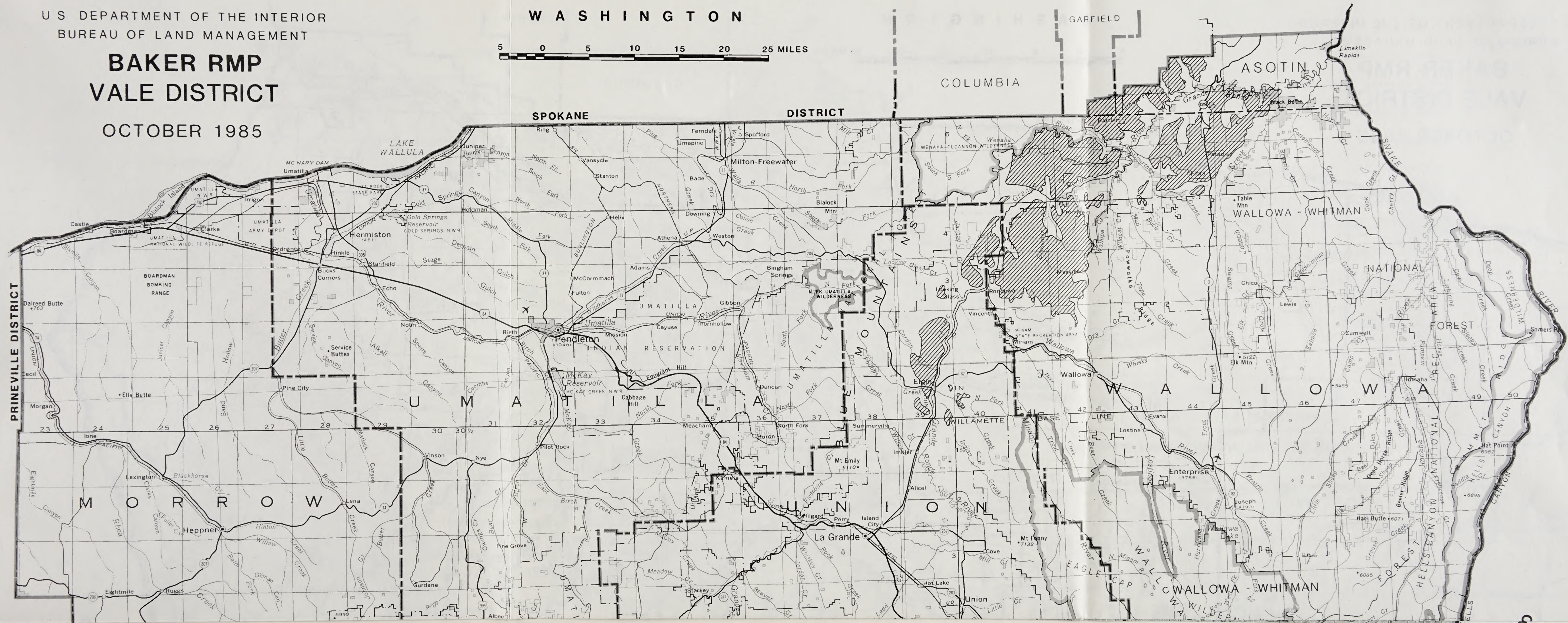






BAKER RMP  
VALE DISTRICT

WASHINGTON





**MAP 3  
Mineral Areas**

 Coal Potential Priority Area (C.P.A.)

1. Hunt Mountain Priority Area

2. Mormon Basin/Burnt River Priority Area

3. Elk Creek Priority Area

4. Pine Creek Priority Area

5. Virtue Flat Priority Area

6. Magpie Peak Priority Area


7. Balm Creek Priority Area

8. Lime Priority Area

9. Snake River Priority Area

10. Conner Creek Priority Area

11. Homestead Priority Area

 Limestone Presently Being Extracted <sup>1/</sup>

**Deposit Type**

Coal

Lode Gold

Lode & Placer Gold

Placer Gold

Placer Gold

Lode Gold

Lode Gold

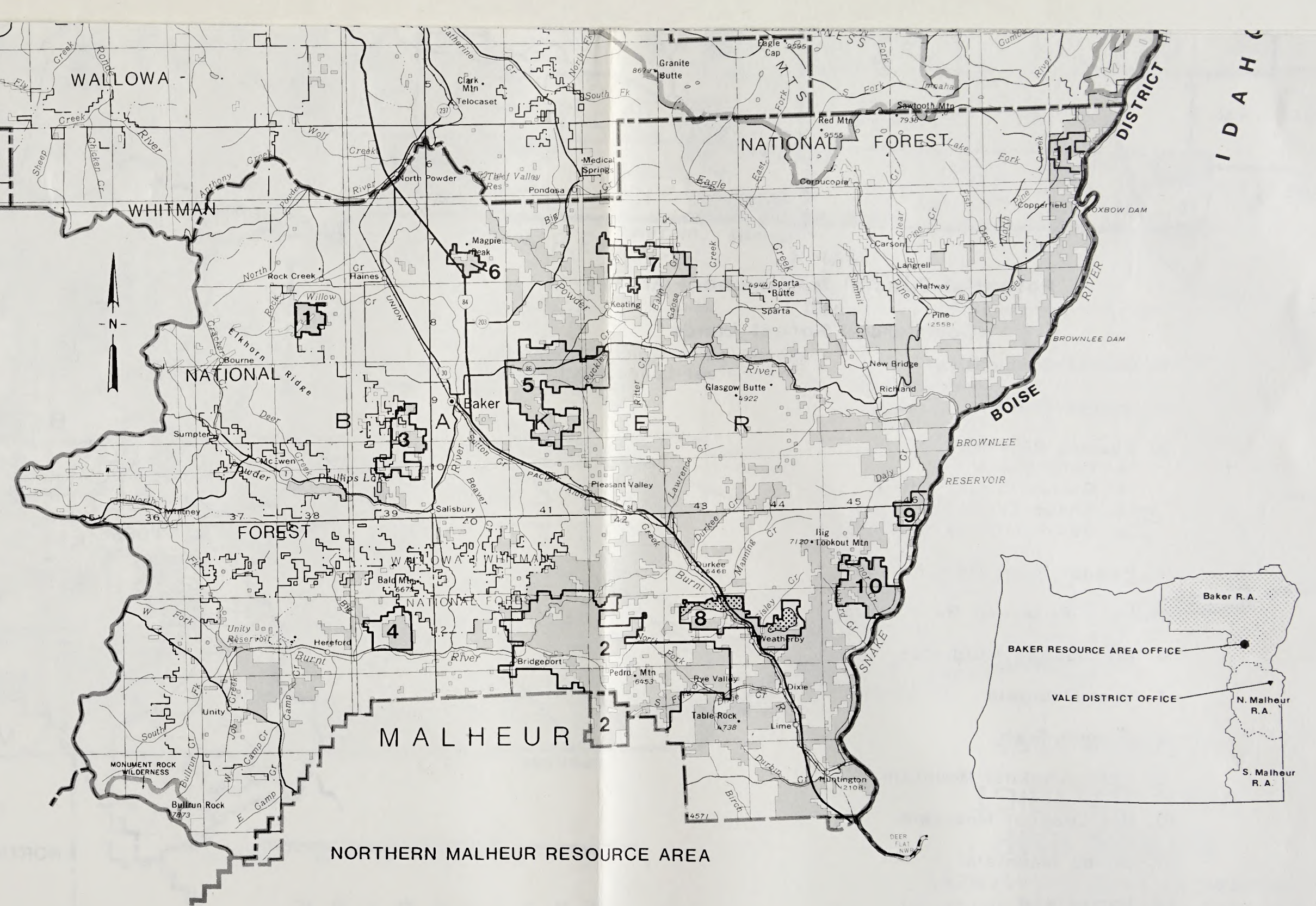
Lode Gold & Copper

<sup>1/</sup>Lode Limestone & Gold

Placer Gold

Lode & Placer Gold

Lode Gold and Copper



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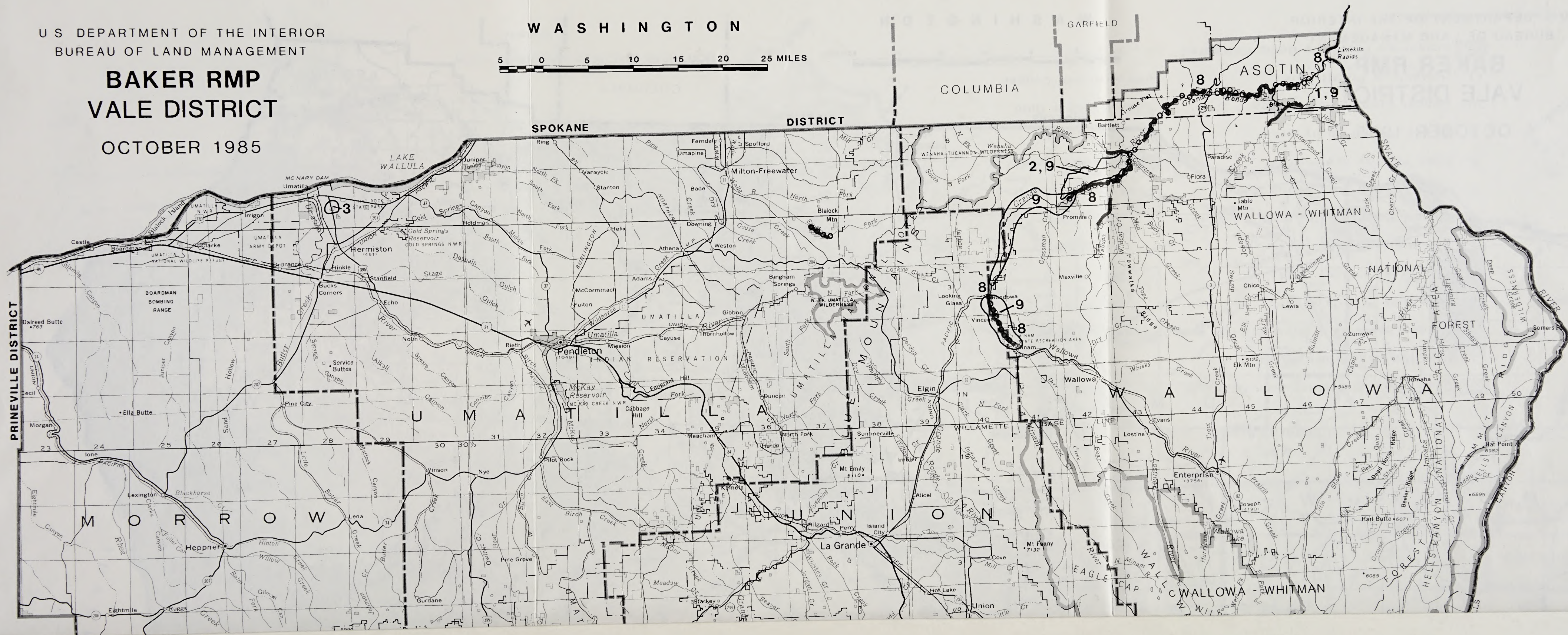
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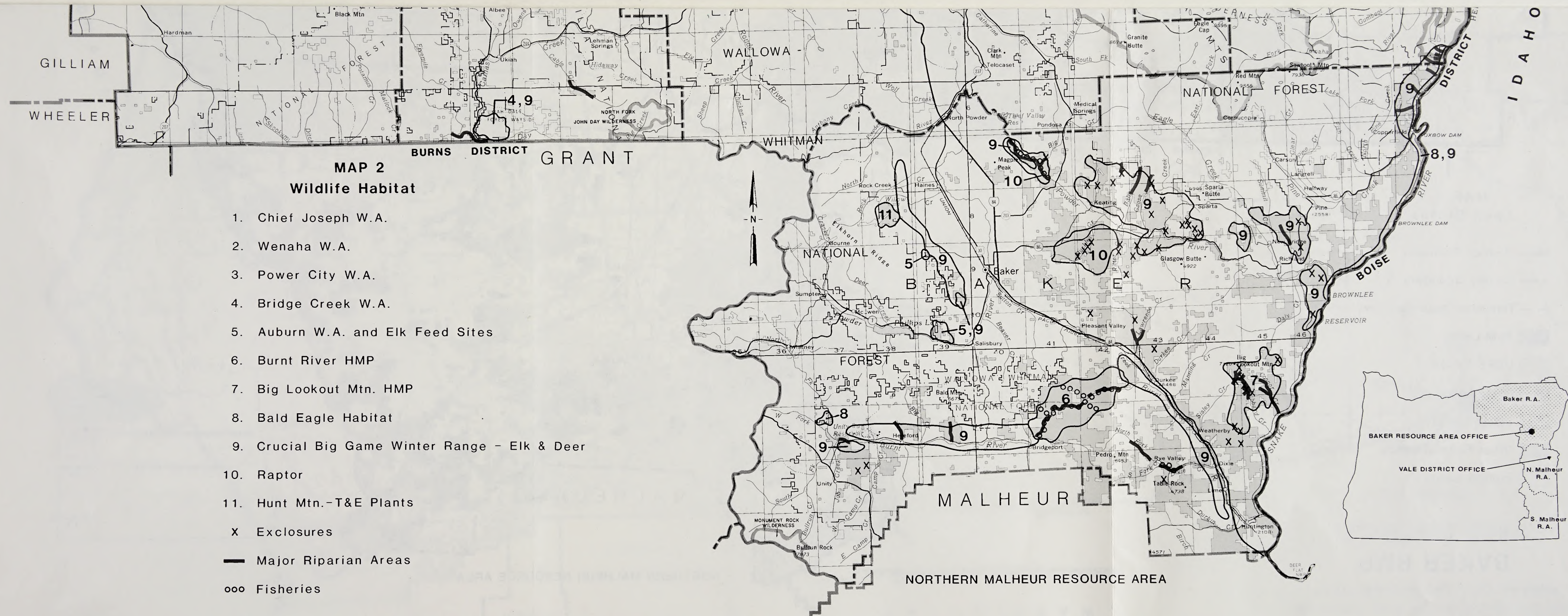
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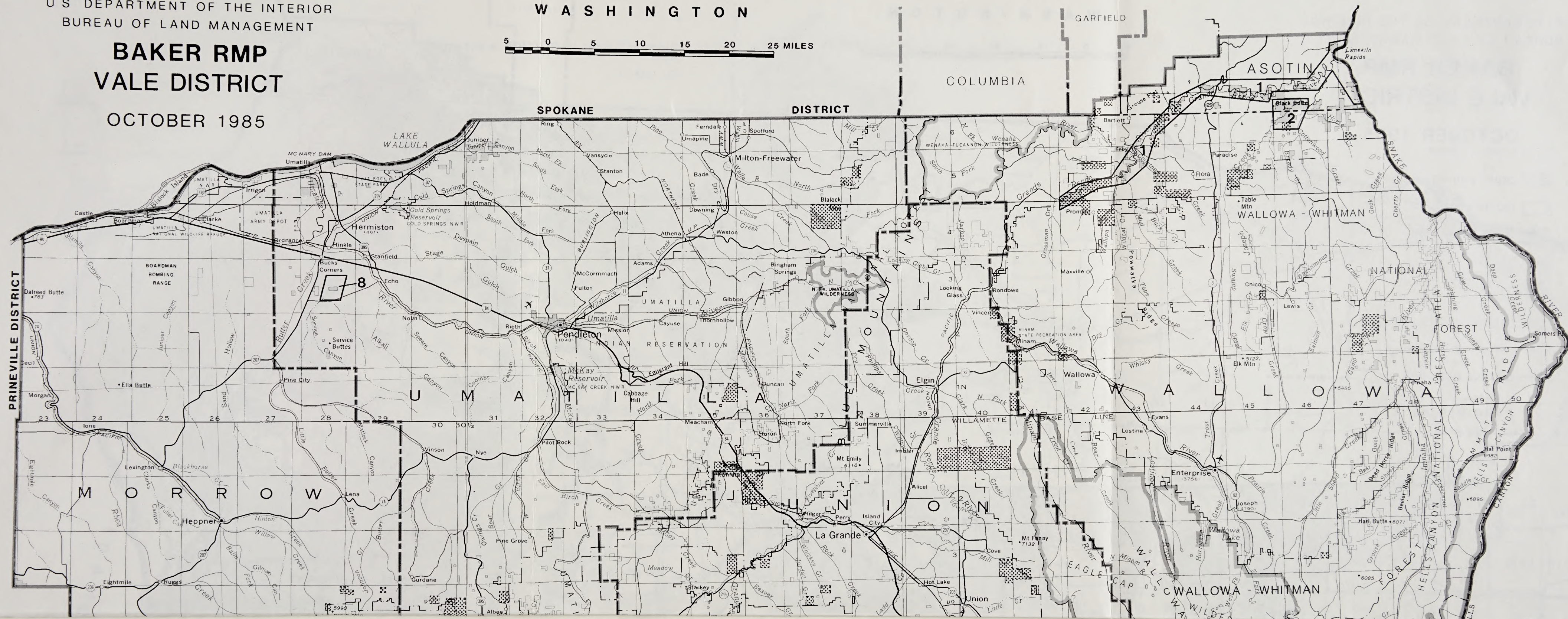
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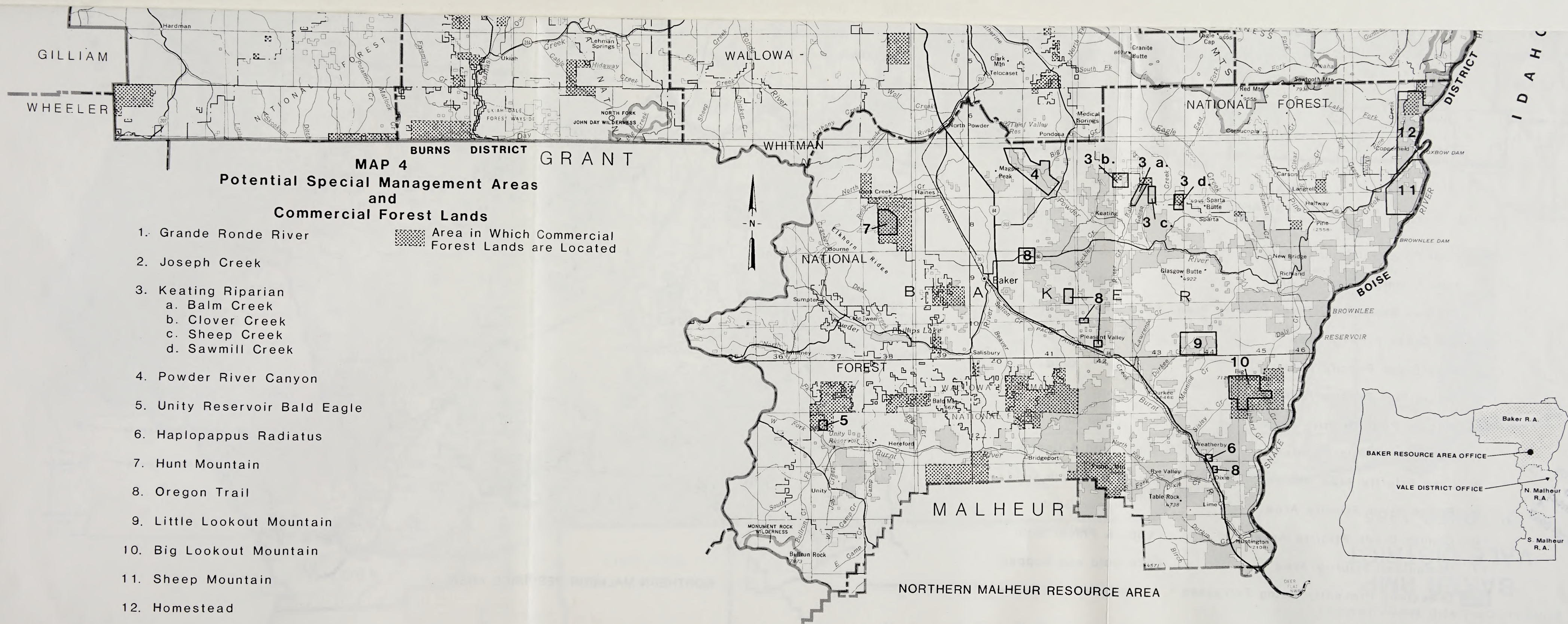
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1550 Dewey  
Baker, Oregon 97814

# **Baker Resource Management Plan Proposed Land Use Alternatives**

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# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

IN REPLY REFER TO

October 18, 1985

Dear Public Land User:

We are presently evaluating options for managing public lands in the Baker Resource Area of the Vale District. Each of these options, or alternatives, prescribes resource management direction for the public lands for the next 10 to 15 years. The alternatives will be analyzed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as part of the planning process.

We have developed four resource alternatives, each with a different management emphasis. In the Continue Existing Management Alternative, the allocation of lands and resources would remain essentially unchanged from the present. The Commodity Production Alternative emphasizes consumptive uses such as livestock production, timber harvest, mineral development and motorized recreation. Balancing enhancement of natural values with commodity production is emphasized in the third alternative. The fourth alternative stresses maximum protection of the natural environment.

The end product will be a Resource Management Plan (RMP) or land use plan for the public lands. The RMP will establish resource management goals and objectives, allowable land uses and levels of resource production, the need for more detailed and site specific activity plans, land areas for multiple use and lands for transfer from public ownership.

The issues and alternatives discussed in this booklet were developed from public comment on the preliminary issues and alternatives brochure, contacts with local governments and user groups, and staff discussions. If you have further comments after reviewing this booklet we would like to receive them by November 25, 1985. Development of a preferred alternative will be based on public comments and interagency and staff recommendations.

Additional suggestions regarding the Baker RMP/EIS process should focus on the following points:

1. Issues that should be considered in the EIS;
2. Your comments or suggestions on the alternatives presented;
3. Your preference for the preferred alternative;
4. Criteria you feel should be used in developing the preferred alternative.

After considering all comments, we will prepare final resource management alternatives. Then, we will estimate the effects of implementing each of the alternatives, develop a preferred alternative and release a draft RMP/EIS in the spring of 1986. Public comment and low turnout at the open house held in Baker indicate that additional scoping meetings prior to completion of the draft RMP/EIS would not be necessary. If a need for meetings is identified as a result of this mailing, they will be scheduled. However, no public meetings at this stage of the RMP development process are anticipated.

Thank you for your past help with this planning effort. We look forward to your continuing interest and participation.

Sincerely yours,

*Jack D. Albright*  
Jack D. Albright  
Area Manager

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# Table of Contents

	Page
The Planning Area .....	1
The Resource Management Planning Process .....	3
Public Response to Preliminary Issues and Alternatives Brochure .....	4
Land Use Alternatives .....	5
Resource Program Narratives	
Grazing Management .....	7
Riparian Management .....	7
Wildlife Management .....	7
Threatened and Endangered Species .....	10
Land Tenure and Realty Management .....	12
Minerals Management .....	13
Air and Water Quality, Soil and Watershed Management .....	15
Forest Management .....	15
Fire Management .....	17
Cultural Resources .....	19
Paleontological Resources .....	19
Recreation Management .....	20
Special Management Areas .....	21
Noxious Weeds .....	21
Wilderness .....	21
Withdrawal Review .....	24
Glossary .....	25
List of Illustrations	
Maps	
1-Land Status	
2-Wildlife Habitat	
3-Mineral Areas	
4-Commercial Forest Lands and Potential Special Management Areas	
List of Tables	
1. Public Land Acreage, Vale District Baker Resource Area .....	1
2. Resource Management Planning Process .....	2



3. Objectives for Alternatives .....	5
4. Priority Ranking for Alternatives .....	5
5. Comparison of Section 3 and Section 15 Grazing Areas .....	7
6. Grazing Management by Alternative .....	8
7. Condition and Trend for Inventoried Riparian Habitat .....	9
8. Riparian Zone and Aquatic Habitat Management by Alternative .....	9
9. Population and Habitat Summary for Selected Wildlife .....	11
10. Wildlife Habitat Management by Alternative .....	11
11. Threatened and Endangered and Sensitive Species Management by Alternative ..	13
12. Land Tenure and Other Realty Actions by Alternative .....	14
13. Mineral Estate Managed by the Baker Resource Area .....	15
14. Minerals Management by Alternative .....	16
15. Soils and Watershed Management by Alternative .....	17
16. Acres of Commercial Forestland by County .....	17
17. Forest Management by Alternative .....	18
18. Baker Resource Area Fire Statistics 1970 - 1983 .....	18
19. Fire Management by Alternative .....	18
20. Cultural Resource Management by Alternative .....	19
21. Paleontological Resource Management by Alternative .....	20
22. Top Five Recreational Uses within the Baker Resource Area .....	20
23. Estimated Visitor Use on BLM Administered Public Lands .....	21
24. Recreation Management by Alternative .....	22
25. Potential Special Management Areas .....	23
26. Special Management Areas by Alternative .....	24



# The Planning Area

This document describes proposed alternatives for managing 426,157 acres of public land and an estimated 513,000 acres of subsurface mineral estate administered by the Bureau of Land Management. These lands are scattered throughout six counties in northeast Oregon and portions of two counties in the southeast portion of Washington State, (refer to Table 1 and Map 1). The development of these land management alternatives is an important part in the process of preparing a Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the planning area.

The planning area has been divided into three, previously established management areas: the Baker, Grande Ronde and Blue Mountain management areas. The Baker management area includes large tracts of BLM administered land in Baker County and a small amount of BLM land in Malheur County. Generally smaller and widely scattered parcels of BLM administered land occur in the six counties in the Grande Ronde and Blue Mountain management areas. This plan will also provide guidance for the management of all Vale District commercial forest lands.

The planning area is bordered by the Snake River to the east, the Columbia River and State Line to the north, and by Gilliam, Wheeler, Grant and Malheur Counties to the west and south (Maps 1 and 2).

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, portions of the Malheur and Umatilla National Forests, the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area and the Blue Mountains, Umatilla Army Depot are the other major federal lands within the planning area. The Umatilla Indian Reservation is also within the planning area.

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**Table 1 - Public Land Acreage, Vale District Baker Resource Area**

County	Federal Surface	Total Acreage of County (Within the Planning Area)
<b>Baker Management Area</b>		
Baker	367,168	1,930,240
Malheur	10,046	12,040
<b>Grande Ronde and Blue Mtn. Management Area</b>		
Morrow	2,347	1,317,900
Umatilla	12,800	2,065,280
Union	5,386	1,200,480
Wallowa	18,602	2,033,920
Asotin	9,738	109,235
Barfield	70	3,320
Total	426,157	8,772,415

---



US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Land Management

VALE DISTRICT

Figure 1  
General Location Map



● BLM State Office

▼ BLM District Office

▽ BLM Area Office

— District Boundary

--- Planning Unit Boundary

— Environmental Impact  
Statement Boundary

■ Baker RMP/EIS Area

▤ Ironsides Grazing Management  
EIS Area

▨ S Malheur Grazing Management  
EIS Area



# The Resource Management Planning Process

The Resource Management Plan (RMP) is a land use plan prescribed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). The goal of the RMP is to provide coordinated and responsive management of public lands and resources. More specifically, the RMP establishes:

- Resource condition goals and objectives;
- Allowable resource uses and levels of production;
- Areas for limited, restricted, or exclusive resource uses;
- Areas for retention or transfer from BLM administration;
- Program constraints and general management practices;
- Support actions and specific management plans required;
- General implementation schedule;
- Standards for monitoring the plan.

The RMP process involves nine interrelated actions as shown in Table 2. The plan that results from this process will describe the framework for making future land use decisions for the public lands in the Baker Resource Area. Where more detailed management direction is required, specific activity plans will be prepared after the RMP is completed.

The Baker RMP was initiated in the winter of 1985 with public involvement in the identification of preliminary planning issues and alternatives. The final Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement will be completed by September 1986. A record of decision and rangeland program summary will be published by the winter of 1986-87.

The first four steps of the RMP process have been completed and this document presents step 5; formulation of resource management alternatives. These alternatives will be finalized following a 30 day review period, and the process will proceed through the final steps to the selection of the Resource Management Plan. The selected RMP will then be implemented, monitored and evaluated on a continuing basis to assure that the land management issues are being resolved.

Public involvement and consultation with affected state and local governments is required at several points in the RMP/EIS. This consultation ensures that the final resource management plan will be as

consistent as possible with approved natural resource plans, programs and policies. The final plan will be implemented with close coordination with other federal, state, local and tribal leaders.

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**Table 2 - Resource Management Planning Process**

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1. Identification of Issues	Completed
2. Development of Planning Criteria	Completed
3. Inventory Data and Information Collection	Completed
4. Analysis of the Management Situation	Completed
5. Formulation of Alternatives	October 1985
6. Estimation of Effects	December 1985 thru March 1986
7. Selection of a Preferred Alternative	
a. Draft RMP/EIS	April 1986
b. Final RMP/EIS	September 1986
8. Selection of the Resource Management Plan	Winter 1987
9. Monitoring and Evaluation	Continuing

---



# Public Response to Preliminary Issues and Alternatives Brochure

Twenty-three written responses were received from a mailing of about 725 copies of the Baker Resource Management Plan Preliminary Issues and Alternatives Brochure. As a result of these comments two new issues were added, riparian and wildlife habitat management, and several other issues were expanded or further defined to reflect public concerns. The revised issues and planning criteria were published in a July, 1985 Baker RMP Newsletter, which was mailed to about 700 people.

Riparian and wildlife habitat management will now be treated as distinct issues in the alternatives presented in this document and in the RMP/EIS. The RMP will identify management priorities and practices for riparian zones, and will classify wildlife habitat values.

The recreation issue has been expanded to clearly identify management needs and options for the Oregon National Historic Trail. This issue is also addressed under the cultural management alternatives.

Public comments have also influenced how other resource issues will be addressed. For example, avoidance and exclusion zones will be identified for utility corridors, and the relationship of this RMP to the existing grazing management program for the Baker planning unit will be clearly defined.



# Land Use Alternatives

Four multiple-use alternatives have been developed that describe the different management options available to BLM for the Baker Resource Area. These alternatives were developed to respond to the issues and concerns expressed by the public and BLM at the onset of the planning process. Each alternative proposes different solutions to the issues and concerns.

Each of the alternatives represents a complete and reasonable plan to guide future management of public lands and resources. One alternative is No Action which is a continuation of existing

management, and is used as a base for analyzing the other alternatives. The No Action alternative is a continuation of current management as directed by available inventories and planning documents.

Three additional alternatives were developed to give BLM management and the public a spectrum of ways the resources could be managed. Objectives (Table 3) for these alternatives were developed to:1) emphasize commodities production, 2) emphasize protection of the natural environment and 3) provide a balanced emphasis. Resource specialists developed capability levels to emphasize resource use and/or protection. Resource priority rankings were developed for each alternative (Table 4) and capability levels were then adjusted to meet these priorities.

Table 3 - Objectives for Alternatives

A. Current Management Situation (No Action)	B. Commodity Production	C. Balanced	D. Natural Environment Protection
This alternative would maintain the present management in the Baker MFP (1979), Grande Ronde MFP (1976), Rangeland Management Program for Baker & Malheur counties (1980), Oil and Gas Management Program (1975), Timber Management Program for Eastern Oregon (1976), Wilderness Studies MFP and Amendment 1982, and other resource activities plans.	This alternative would strive to emphasize the utilization of resources and produces the greatest revenues from them. Maintenance of the natural environment would continue where compatible with production of renewable and non-renewable resources or mandated by law. When resource trade-offs would be required, the resource affording the greatest opportunity to maximize revenues would be given preference.	This alternative would provide the greatest variety and balance of resource use. Protection of the natural environment would be emphasized while accommodating commodity resources. Resource tradeoffs would favor balance and not any single resource.	This alternative would emphasize protection of natural values. Resource uses and developments would still occur, but proposed developments would have to be compatible with the continuation of the long term maintenance of natural values. Resource trade-off would favor protection of renewable natural resources through more restrictive stipulations and authorizations.

Table 4 - Priority Ranking For Alternatives

B. Commodity Production	C. Balanced	D. Natural Environment Protection
1. Threatened and Endangered Species 2. Cultural Resources 3. Paleontological 4. Locatable Minerals 5. Forestry 6. Range 7. Recreation 8. Saleable Minerals 9. Oil and Gas 10. Coal 11. Geothermal 12. Land Tenure: Disposal 13. Land Tenure: Retention 14. Realty <sup>1</sup> 15. Off Road Vehicles 16. Wildlife 17. Soils/Watershed 18. Riparian/Aquatic 19. Special Management Areas 20. Fire	1. Threatened or Endangered Species 2. Cultural Resources 3. Paleontological 4. Recreation 5. Wildlife 6. Soils/Watershed 7. Forestry 8. Range 9. Special Management Areas 10. Riparian/Aquatic 11. Saleable Minerals 12. Realty <sup>1</sup> 13. Off Road Vehicles 14. Locatable Minerals 15. Fire 16. Oil and Gas 17. Coal 18. Geothermal 19. Land Tenure: Retention 20. Land Tenure: Disposals	1. Threatened and Endangered Species 2. Special Management Areas 3. Cultural Resources 4. Paleontological Resources 5. Land Tenure: Retention 6. Soils/Watershed 7. Riparian/Aquatic 8. Wildlife 9. Recreation 10. Fire 11. Realty <sup>1</sup> 12. Forestry 13. Range 14. Off Road Vehicles 15. Oil and Gas 16. Geothermal 17. Coal 18. Saleable Minerals 19. Locatable Minerals 20. Land Tenure: Disposal

<sup>1</sup>Realty refers primarily to easement acquisition, but includes leases, rights-of-way, withdrawal review, and permits



## Selection of the Preferred Alternative

The potential impacts to the environment of implementing the proposed alternatives will be examined and presented to BLM management. Based on this analysis, BLM policy and goals, and the responsiveness of each alternative to the identified resource issues, a preferred alternative will be identified and its environmental consequences will be predicted.

The environmental analysis of all alternatives will be published in the draft RMP/EIS and will be available for public review in April, 1986.

## No Grazing Alternative

The option of including a No Grazing Alternative was considered and rejected. It is believed this alternative is not practical because BLM lands in the resource area are generally small, scattered tracts that are intermingled with private lands. These public lands would require extensive fencing to exclude livestock, which would be unfeasibly costly to construct.

However, during formulation of the alternatives a "no grazing" option has been proposed on specific areas where the interdisciplinary team believes it may be warranted to address resource conflicts and/or environmental protection.



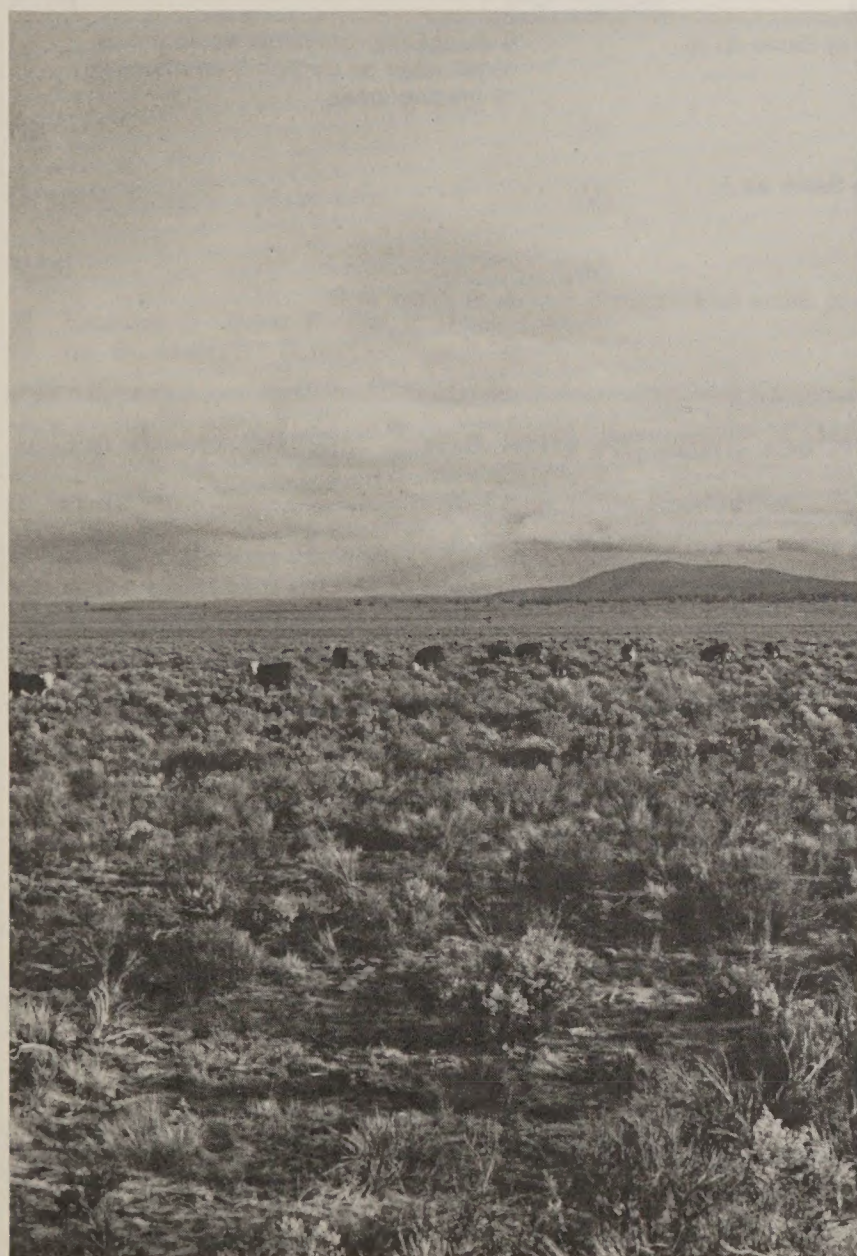
# Resource Program Narratives

## Grazing Management

There are 367,199 acres in the planning area permitted for livestock grazing under Section 3 of the Taylor Grazing Act (refer to Table 5, Comparison of Section 3 and Section 15 Grazing Areas). These lands are located in Baker County, except for a few acres in Malheur county, and include all of the

**Table 5 - Comparison Of Section 3 and Section 15 Grazing Areas**

	Section 3 Grazing Permits	Section 15 Grazing Leases
Total Acres (Alloted)	367,199	41,067
Total AUMs	55,000	4,322
Number of Permittees/Lessees	172	110
Avg. Allot. size (Acre/AUMs)	1406/198	366/38
Allotments Categorized	Yes	No
Number of Monitoring Studies	350	0
Number of Water Developments	468	11
Acres of Seeding	27,000	0



larger tracts and developed grazing lands in the planning area.

In 1980 a rangeland management program based upon the Ironside Grazing Environmental Impact Statement was developed for the Section 3 grazing lands. This rangeland management program will continue to provide the basic management direction for the Section 3 lands, and will be modified only to the extent that it is affected by other resource decisions stemming from the Baker RMP (see Riparian and Special Management Areas).

The Baker RMP will thoroughly examine and provide the basic management direction for 41,067 acres leased for grazing under Section 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act. These Section 15 grazing lands are scattered through 7 million acres in the northern portion of the planning area, and are leased to 110 livestock operators who own the surrounding private lands. These isolated Section 15 grazing lands contain few rangeland improvements and are often fenced within private pastures.

Table 6 displays management alternatives for Section 3 and Section 15 grazing lands.

## Riparian Habitat Management

Approximately 240 miles of riparian habitat occur on BLM lands in the planning area. Most of the riparian zones are about 30 feet wide, or less, and cover an average of 4 acres per linear mile.

Although riparian areas comprise less than 1 percent of the total area, they are critically important because they are a source of biological diversity and are considered the lifeline of the biological systems in the area. Riparian zones are used more than any other type of habitat; 75 percent of the terrestrial species in the planning unit are either directly or indirectly dependent on the riparian zone.

About 56 percent of the riparian zones in the planning area have been inventoried. Table 7 describes the condition and trend of inventoried habitat. Table 8 presents riparian habitat management by alternative.

## Wildlife Management

Wide variations in climate, topographic features and



**Table 6 - Grazing Management By Alternative**

A. No Action	B. Commodity Production	C. Balanced	D. Natural Environment Protection
1. a) Grazing permits issued under Section 3 of the Taylor Grazing Act (TGA) would continue to be managed according to the Ironside EIS/RMP. Forage available for livestock would remain at about 56,000 AUM's.	1. a) Same as A. In addition, the class and kind of livestock would be adjusted where possible to maximize forage utilization. Riparian areas would be managed to maximize forage production. Livestock forage available in Section 3 permit areas would increase to 65,000 AUM's.	1. a) Same as A. In addition, use adjustments would be made to accommodate riparian improvements and objectives, and to protect SMAs. Site preparation for reforestation and burning for habitat improvement would also require temporary use adjustments. Livestock forage available under Section 3 permits would be reduced on an average year to 55,400 AUM's.	1. a) Ironside EIS/RMP decisions affecting Section 3 grazing permits would be modified to achieve environmental protection objectives. Livestock use would be adjusted to protect fragile soils, and could be excluded from all SMAs and riparian zones, could decrease available livestock forage to as low as 36,000 AUMs, depending on the methods used to protect riparian zones from grazing.
b) Grazing leases issued under Section 15 of the TGA would continue, providing 4,322 AUM's.	b) Livestock forage under Section 15 grazing leases would be increased to 6,000 AUM's by emphasizing maximum forage utilization and by leasing grazable but presently unleased tracts.	b) Section 15 grazing leases would continue to be issued, and would be reduced to about 4,100 AUM's.	b) Same as C.
2. a) Allotment categorization specified in the Ironside EIS/RMP would remain in effect for Section 3 permits.	2. a) All Section 3 allotments presently categorized as 'C' allotments would become 'I' allotments.	2. a) Same as A.	2. Section 3 and Section 15 grazing areas would be categorized with the intent of protecting natural resource values and needs. Grazing systems would be developed or changed to meet other resource objectives.
b) All Section 15 leases would be categorized for custodial management (category 'C' allotments).	b) All Section 15 lease areas would be categorized as 'I' allotments.	b) Same as A.	
3. a) Range improvements for Section 3 permits would be constructed according to the Ironside EIS/RMP.	3. Range improvements would be maximized in both Section 3 and Section 15 grazing areas.	3. a) Same as A.	3. Range improvements would not be constructed on Section 3 and Section 15 grazing areas.
b) Range improvements on Section 15 leases would remain the responsibility of the lessee.		b) Same as A.	
4. a) For Section 3 permits, intensive monitoring would continue on 'I' allotments, less intensive monitoring would occur on 'M' allotments and little or no monitoring would occur on 'C' allotments. Range improvements would be periodically inspected for maintenance compliance.	4. Monitoring studies and increased compliance inspections would be implemented on most Section 3 and Section 15 grazing areas.	4. a) Same as A.	4. a) Same as B.
b) For Section 15 leases, no monitoring would take place, and compliance checks would only occur when a controversy arose.		b) Same as A.	b) Same as B.

vegetative types provide habitat for 424 species of fish and wildlife in the planning area. Wildlife species include 49 fish species, 277 birds, 90 mammals and 8 big game animals. Table 9 summarizes population and habitat information for selected wildlife in the planning area.

Sixteen wildlife management units identified by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife overlap the planning area. Forage recommendations by ODFW to meet big game management objectives are not being fully met in the planning unit.

Wildlife recommendations made in the Baker Management Framework Plan (1981) and the Grande Ronde Management Framework Plan (1972) continue to be implemented. The existing wildlife program emphasizes the use of modified livestock grazing systems and timber management practices to benefit wildlife, protection of raptor areas during the nesting season, cooperative management of elk habitat, and increased prescribed burning to improve wildlife habitat quality.





Lost Fork, Goose Creek, Baker County

**Table 7 - Condition and Trend for Inventoried Riparian Habitat**

Area	Miles of Riparian (Perennial)	Miles of Riparian Inventoried	Riparian Condition (Miles) <sup>1</sup>				Riparian Trend (Miles) <sup>2</sup>		
			E	G	F	P	U	S	D
Baker	190	95	4	37	47	7	22	60	13
Grande Ronde - Blue Mtn.	50	40	12	22	6	0	0	40	0
Total	240	135	16	59	53	7	22	100	13

<sup>1</sup>E Excellent, G Good, F Fair, P Poor

<sup>2</sup>U Up, S Static, D Down

**Table 8 - Riparian Zone and Aquatic Habitat Management by Alternative**

A. No Action	B. Commodity Production	C. Balanced	D. Natural Environment Protection
1. Existing 41 fenced riparian enclosures would be maintained. Additional enclosures would be built on an as needed basis. Inventories of key riparian habitats would continue.	1. Same as A, except no additional enclosures would be constructed.	1. Existing enclosures would be maintained. In addition, riparian habitat inventories would be accelerated, and an intensive recovery program would be implemented on all riparian zones in fair to poor condition. Streams in good to excellent condition would receive less priority, and would be improved through less intensive means such as grazing system modifications.	1. Existing enclosures would be maintained. In addition, all riparian habitats would be inventoried and an intensive recovery program would be implemented on all riparian zones not in excellent condition.
2. Current grazing systems would continue.	2. Same as A.	2. Grazing systems would be reviewed and prescription grazing systems would be developed to benefit riparian zones.	2. Livestock would be excluded from all riparian zones.
3. Construction of instream structures to improve selected fish habitats would continue on an needed basis.	3. Same as A.	3. Fish habitat improvements would be concentrated on streams in poor to fair condition.	3. All fisheries habitat not in excellent condition would be improved.



Table 10 describes management of wildlife habitat by alternative. Map 2 shows important wildlife habitat areas.

## Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive Species

### Animals

The northern bald eagle is Federally listed as threatened in Oregon and Washington. Bald eagles are primarily winter residents along major rivers such as the Snake, Columbia and Grande Ronde in the Baker Resource Area. The first successful nesting of bald eagle in northeast Oregon in 25 years was discovered in 1984 near Unity Reservoir.

Adjacent BLM lands have been identified as potential nesting habitat.

Species that occur in the planning area that are being considered for Federal listing (Category 2) are the ferruginous hawk, Swainson's hawk, long-billed curlew and the spotted bat.

Species of concern to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, but that have no state legal status, are the greater sandhill crane, sharp-tailed grouse, great gray owl, western bluebird, yellow warbler and loggerhead shrike (Oregon Nongame Wildlife Management Plan 1984).



Mule Deer near Durkee, Baker County.



**Table 9 - Population and Habitat Summary for Selected Wildlife**

Species	Occurrence	5 Year Population Trend <sup>1</sup>	Habitat Type	Habitat Condition	Habitat Trend	Habitat Potential
Mule Deer	Abundant	-	sagebrush grass; mixed conifer forest	Poor-Fair	Stable	High
Rocky Mountain Elk	Abundant	+	mixed conifer forests, grassland openings	Fair-Good	Stable	Med-High
Pronghorn Antelope	Occasional	+	sagebrush-grass	Fair	Stable	Med-High
Mountain Lion	Common	+	rugged, rocky, inaccessible habitats	Good	Stable	Low
Mountain Goat	Rare		subalpine, alpine habitats			
Bobcat	Common	+	rugged areas in sagebrush-grass habitats	Fair-Good	Stable	Medium
Coyote	Abundant	+	sagebrush-grass	Good	Stable	Medium
Beaver	Common	-	marshes, streams, ponds near woodlands	Poor	Decreasing	High
Blue Grouse	Abundant	-	edges & openings in conifer forests	Poor	Stable	High
Ruffed Grouse	Common	-	riparian zones, deciduous woodlands	Poor	Stable	High
Sage Grouse	Occasional	0	sagebrush-grass	Fair	Stable	Medium
Calif. Quail	Common	-	brush with open areas	Poor	Stable	High
Chukar	Abundant	-	rugged, steep, arid grasslands	Excellent	Stable	Low
Ring-Neck Pheasant	Abundant	-	agricultural areas	Poor	Stable	High
Ducks	Common	0	ponds, streams, marshes	Poor	Stable	Low
Geese	Common	+	ponds, large reservoirs	Fair	Stable	Medium
Raptors		+	canyon rims and ledges	Good	Stable	Low
Woodpeckers		0		Fair	Stable	Low
Bats				Fair	Stable	Low
Trout		0		Poor	Stable	Medium
Anadromous Fish		0		Poor	Stable	Medium
Warm Water Fish		0		-	Increasing	Medium

<sup>1</sup>+ Increasing  
0 Stable  
- Decreasing

**Table 10 - Wildlife Habitat Management by Alternative**

A. No Action	B. Commodity Production	C. Balanced	D. Natural Environment Protection
1. Wildlife habitat conditions would be maintained, and would sustain big game populations at levels less than ODFW population management objectives.	1. Same as A.	1. Wildlife habitat would be enhanced to meet ODFW big game population management objectives.	1. Wildlife habitat would be enhanced to allow ODFW big game population management objectives to be exceeded.
2. Current levels of habitat diversity and quality would be maintained.	2. Same as A.	2. Habitat manipulation would be undertaken to increase habitat diversity and quality.	2. Same as C.
3. Existing HMPs would be implemented. Previous wildlife decisions would continue to be implemented.	3. Same as A.	3. Habitat management plans would be developed for all important wildlife areas.	3. Same as C.



## Plants

Snake River goldenweed (*Halplopappus Radiatus*) is a federal candidate plant (category 2) that occurs on BLM land in the planning area. This plant is found in dry rock and open soil along the Snake River and adjacent slopes in Baker County.

Two other plants being considered for federal listing are suspected to occur in the planning area but have not been confirmed. Greenman's desert parsley (*Lomatium Greenmanii*) (category 1) inhabits moist subalpine ridges and rocky summits above 7800 feet. Oregon desert parsley (*Lomatium Oseganum*) (category 2) occurs in exposed sites near granitic ridgetops.

The Oregon Natural Heritage Programs data base lists eight plant species that are suspected to occur in the planning area, and that would be suitable for listing as BLM sensitive species.

Table 11 describes management of threatened,



Young ferruginous hawk.

endangered or sensitive species by alternative. The RMP/EIS will assume appropriate levels of protection or project modification for threatened, endangered or sensitive plants or animals as project design features or standard operating procedures under all alternatives.

## Land Tenure and Realty Management

The land and realty program performs many functions to provide efficient and productive use of public lands. These functions include:

- granting rights-of-ways
- authorizing temporary and long term use
- identifying utility corridors
- conducting land exchanges, sales and acquisitions
- leasing or selling lands for recreation or public purposes
- processing land withdrawals
- abating unauthorized use problems

Table 12 describes land tenure and realty management by alternative.

Under alternatives B, C and D public lands in the planning area would be identified for retention or disposal and would be placed in one of three land tenure zones. These zones are defined as:

**Zone 1. Retention.** Areas currently identified as having high public values of National or Statewide significance, e. g. Grande Ronde River corridor and Snake River Canyon. These lands also possess significant wildlife, wilderness, recreation, vegetative, cultural and/or scenic values.

**Zone 2. Unclassified.** Public lands have potentially high resource values for timber, recreation, watershed or wildlife habitat. Most of these lands would be potentially suitable for disposal following additional inventories to determine resource values.

**Zone 3. Disposal.** Public lands are potentially suitable for disposal provided that significant values of National or Statewide significance are not identified.

Note that the criteria for placement in the land tenure zones varies by alternative.



**Table 11 - Threatened and Endangered and Sensitive Species Management by Alternative**

A. No Action	B. Commodity Production	C. Balanced	D. Natural Environment Protection
1. Locations of T&E species would be avoided through site specific assessments and stipulations on proposed land activities.	1. Same as A.	1. Same as A.	1. Same as A.
2. Existing nest platforms for ferruginous hawks would be maintained and monitored.	2. Same as A.	2. Nesting platforms for ferruginous hawks would be installed in known habitats.	2. Nesting platforms would be installed for ferruginous hawks in known and potential habitats.
3. The cooperative Bald Eagle Management Team for Unity Reservoir Nesting Bald Eagles would be continued.	3. Same as A.	3. Same as A.	3. Same as A. See also Table 25 SMAs.
4. Known T&E plant sites would be monitored.	4. Known T&E plant sites would not be monitored.	4. Same as A.	4. Same as A. Also, T&E plant sites would be inventoried to determine range of occurrence.
5. Winter and spring inventories on bald eagles, Swainson's and ferruginous hawks would be conducted.	5. Same as A.	5. Same as A.	5. Same as A.
6. Columbian sharp-tailed grouse may or may not be reintroduced.	6. Same as A.	6. Columbian sharp-tailed grouse would be reintroduced into suitable habitat.	6. Same as C.
7. No land acquisition would occur for T&E species.	7. Same as A.	7. Same as A.	7. A bald eagle roost site on Brownlee pool would be acquired, and other acquisitions would be considered to enhance T&E species.

## Minerals Management

The Baker Resource Area administers 939,000 acres of federal mineral estate in the planning area (refer to Table 13, Mineral Estate Managed by the Baker Resource Area). These lands hold significant deposits of gold, silver, antimony and commercial grade limestone. Other mineral occurrences include manganese, mercury, zeolites, bentonite, sand and gravel, and coal and lignite.

There are presently 3,518 mining claims located on BLM administered mineral estate in the planning area. Most of these claims have been located for gold and silver. Small amounts of precious metals, some aggregate, and significant amounts of commercial grade limestone are the only minerals being produced.

About 105,000 acres of BLM administered mineral estate are currently leased for oil and gas, but there is no present production. A newly discovered lignite coal field near Troy contains an estimated 2 billion

tons of low grade coal, but only a small portion of this is thought to be located on BLM administered lands or mineral estate. BLM currently does not have sufficient information to evaluate the coal resource and other values that might be impacted. This RMP will not determine if any federal coal resources are acceptable for leasing.

Approximately 24,100 acres are currently withdrawn from mineral entry. Most of these lands have been withdrawn by the Bureau of Reclamation, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Defense, and are located along the Snake and Columbia Rivers. All of the withdrawals are currently being reviewed to determine which lands should remain closed to mineral entry.

Table 14 describes minerals management by alternative. Map 3 shows important mineral areas.



**Table 12 - Land Tenure and Other Realty Actions by Alternative**

A. No Action	B. Commodity Production	C. Balanced	D. Natural Environment Protection
1. Approximately 56,000 acres of public lands would be available for land tenure adjustments, sale, exchange, BLM/FS jurisdictional transfer, and R&PP leases. Annual disposal or exchange program would be about 400-500 acres. No land tenure zoning would take place.	1a. Zone 1 (Retention): Would generally retain lands with known commodity resource values (forestry, minerals, range, or recreation) and other resource values of national or statewide importance.  1b. Zone 2 (Unclassified): Would include lands that have potential for disposal but require additional resource inventories.  1c. Zone 3 (Disposal): Difficult to manage lands that have no commodity resource values or resources with national/statewide significance would be available for disposal. These lands would be exchanged for lands with commodity resources in the retention zone. Land sales and other forms of disposal would be permitted.	1a. Zone 1 (Retention): Would generally retain lands that best serve the management missions of BLM; including multiple use, management efficiency, and public access to resources, or have national/statewide or regional resource values.  1b. Zone 2 (Unclassified): Same as B.  1c. Zone 3 (Disposal): Would include lands that are inefficient to manage because of size or isolation, and have no or low resource values. These lands would be exchanged to enhance multiple use management in the retention zone. Land sales would be permitted on lands with no potential for exchange.	1a. Zone 1 (Retention): Would retain all public lands, with exceptions noted below.  1b. Zone 2 (Unclassified): Same as B.  1c. Zone 3 (Disposal): Would include lands with diminished natural values; heavily mined or surface disturbance with little chance for return to natural conditions. These lands would be exchanged for lands in the retention zone. No land sales would be permitted.
2. Legal public access would be acquired on an as needed basis.	2. Legal public access would be acquired primarily to maximize management and use of commodity resources.	2. Legal public access would be acquired primarily to benefit overall management and use of resource. No access would be sought in areas where significant resource deterioration could result.	2. Legal public access would be acquired only if natural values would not be jeopardized with increased public use.
3. Utility corridors and sites would be permitted on a case-by-case basis with site specific analysis.	3. Major utilities would be permitted to use existing and potential corridors and sites, with only mandatory protection areas excluded.	3. Major utilities would be encouraged to use existing corridors and sites. Sensitive resource values would be protected along corridors and sites.	3. Major utilities would be permitted to use only existing corridors and sites.
4. Use authorization including agricultural leases would be permitted on an as needed basis.	4. Same as A. In addition, priority would be given to those involving commodity resource development.	4. Agricultural permits or leases would not be permitted in areas with resource values or in identified retention zones. Reclamation of unauthorized agricultural use would occur in retention zones. Other use authorizations would be as in A.	4. No agricultural permits or leases would be issued. Unauthorized agricultural use would be reclaimed to a natural condition. Other use authorization would be as in A.
5. No signing of public lands would occur.	5. All public lands would be signed for public identification	5. All public lands in areas of high public use or high potential for unauthorized use would be signed.	5. All public lands would be signed for public identification.
6. Withdrawals would be reviewed on an as needed basis (also see Mineral Alternatives).	6. All withdrawals would be reviewed on an accelerated schedule and revoked if no longer needed for withdrawal purposes.	6. All withdrawals would be reviewed on a prioritized basis.	6. Same as C.



**Table 13 - Mineral Estate Managed by the Baker Resource Area**

	Acres
BLM managed surface and subsurface	426,000
Private surface, BLM managed subsurface	513,000
Total BLM managed mineral estate	939,000

## Air and Water Quality, Soil and Watershed Management

Management practices in all four alternatives would meet the legal requirement dealing with air and water quality and would be designed to maintain or improve water quality, soil productivity, and control erosion. Also of prime importance would be the maintaining and improvement of riparian habitat and streambank stability. Proposed projects, including roads, would be designed and maintained



Small placer gold operation on Elk Creek, Baker County.

to reduce impacts on water quality and soil erosion.

Soils in the planning area are extremely diverse due to variations in elevation, topography, aspect, climate and parent material. Soil conditions are generally stable throughout the resource area, although several troublespots occur. Significant erosion problems exist in the Durkee and Virtue Flats Off Road Vehicle Areas, and severe soil loss has occurred in the bottomlands of some isolated watersheds.

A watershed plan is being prepared to rehabilitate depleted soil and vegetative resources along Morgan Creek. This watershed plan will include construction of instream soil catchment structures and will be implemented over the next several years.

Table 15 describes soil and watershed management by alternative.

## Forest Management

An intensive forest inventory completed in 1984 identified 33,237 acres capable of commercial timber production. Of this forest land, 9,023 acres are in locations where timber cannot currently be economically harvested, and 1,685 acres occur on fragile soils where unique harvest methods would be required to maintain forest productivity. The remaining 22,529 acres are considered suitable for sustained commercial timber production. These lands produce an annual average harvest of 3.2 million board feet (MMBF).

About half of the commercial forest land is located in Baker County, with significant amounts occurring in Malheur, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa Counties (Map 4). See Table 16 for location by county of commercial forest land.

Areas of commercial timber are generally located in scattered tracts at lower and mid elevations, and between private lands on valley floors and national forest lands at higher elevations. A notable exception is Hunt Mountain, which has a large block of BLM timber in the Elkhorn range. Commercial species include ponderosa pine in dry areas and on south facing slopes; mixed conifer stands of Douglas fir, tamarack, and Engleman spruce in wet areas and on north facing slopes; and lodgepole pine at higher elevations.

Table 17 describes forest management by alternative.



**Table 14 - Mineral Management By Alternative**

A. No Action	B. Commodity Production	C. Balanced	D. Natural Environment Protection
Withdrawals of Public Land From Mineral Entry			
1. Withdrawals would not be emphasized, but would continue to be evaluated on a case by case basis when it is not feasible to mitigate the long term, adverse effects of a proposed mineral operation and on fragile or significant resource values. Selective withdrawals would continue to be an alternative to complete withdrawal.	1. Only withdrawal proposals mandated by law (wilderness designation, etc.) would be considered. Existing withdrawals would be reviewed expeditiously, and all withdrawals that are not consistent with this alternative would be revoked.	1. Same as A, except more emphasis would be placed on withdrawals to protect fragile and significant resource values such as those in Special Management Areas (SMA's). In addition, at least one area will be proposed for withdrawal from mineral entry for the development of a recreational gold mining area.	1. Same as A, except more emphasis would be placed on withdrawals to protect fragile and significant resource values in riparian zones, critical wildlife habitat, important watersheds and SMA's.
Exploration and Development of Mineral Resources			
2a. All public lands not withdrawn from mineral entry would continue to be open for exploration and development of mineral resources.	2a. Same as Alternative A.	2a. Same as A.	2a. Same as A.
2b. Locatable Minerals: Approximately 40 active mining operations would continue to be monitored on an annual basis. Compliance inspections would continue to be made at a low level, usually one or less per active operation per year.	2b. Same as A.	2b. Same as A except compliance inspections would be increased to at least two per active operations per year.	2b. Same as A except compliance inspections would be increased to more than two per active operations per year and plans of operation would emphasize protective stipulations for natural values.
2c. Oil and Gas: Oil and gas leases would continue to be issued in categories 1 and 2:  Category 1 - Open to leasing - 891,640 ac. Category 2 - Open to leasing - 22,215 ac. with "no surface occupancy" stipulations. Category 3 - No leasing (total) 25,145 ac. with "no surface occupancy" stipulations. Mandatory - 24,098 ac. Discretionary - 1,047 ac.	2c. Same as A, except all of the public lands in the discretionary "no leasing" category would be evaluated for placement in categories 1 and 2, and all lands in category 2 would be evaluated for placement on category 1.	2c. Same as A, except all of the public lands, other than those withdrawn from entry under the mineral leasing laws, would be re-evaluated by a multidisciplinary team. Decisions would be made to place the public lands in categories based on a multiple-use frame of reference and public input and review.	2c. Same as C, except more emphasis would be given to the protection of significant and fragile resource values such as riparian zones, critical wildlife habitat, SMA's, and important watersheds.
2d. Coal: The 3,312 acres of potential coal lands administered by BLM and located in the Troy Basin would continue to be evaluated for their lignite potential.	2d. The 3,312 acres of potential coal lands would be intensively inventoried for lignite and other resources and acceptable lands could be offered for competitive leasing.	2d. Evaluation of the 3,312 acres of BLM administered, potential coal lands located in the Troy Basin would continue, but intensive inventories and unsuitability evaluations would be conducted only when an interest in leasing has been expressed by industry.	2d. Intensive inventories of resources, other than lignite, would be conducted and potential coal areas with significant and fragile resource values would not be considered acceptable for leasing.
2e. Saleable Minerals: Mineral sales would continue to be authorized from the one existing community pit and other sites on a demand basis. Material site rights-of-way located in Baker County would continue to be reviewed jointly with the Oregon State Department of Highways and would be by free use permits if no longer needed.	2e. Same as A, except joint review of material site rights-of-way would be extended to the entire resource area. In addition, 24 potential community pit sites would be evaluated and production of mineral materials would be maximized.	2e. Same as B, except 10 or less additional community pit sites, most located in Baker County, would be evaluated.	2e. Same as A, except no additional community pits would be developed.





Combing logs. Hess 88 Timber Sale, Wallowa County.

**Table 15 - Soils and Watershed Management by Alternative**

A. No Action	B. Commodity Production	C. Balanced	D. Natural Environment Protection
1. All proposed resource projects and surface disturbance would be reviewed to ensure that soils/ watersheds are protected, rehabilitated or improved.	1. Same as A.	1. Same as A. In addition, disturbance on fragile soils would be minimized.	1. Same as A. In addition all surface disturbance on fragile soils would be prevented.
2. A watershed plan for Morgan Creek would be implemented.		2. Would develop and implement coordinated watershed plans for all watersheds.	2. Same as C.

**Table 16 - Acres of Commercial Forestland by County <sup>1</sup>**

County	Commercial Forest Acres
Baker	18,114
Malheur <sup>2</sup>	4,021
Umatilla	3,552
Union	3,523
Wallowa	2,958
Morrow	366
Harney <sup>2</sup>	319
Grant <sup>2</sup>	249
Asotin (WA)	66
Garfield (WA)	33

<sup>1</sup>Woodlands are currently being inventoried and data will be included in the draft RMP/EIS.

<sup>2</sup>Northern Malheur Resource Area, Management of Forestry Resources only

## Fire Management

An average of 28 fires occur annually on lands protected by the Baker Resource Area. Table 18 shows fire statistics for the resource area during a 14 year period. Table 19 describes fire management by alternative.

Over the past several years the fire management philosophy of land managing agencies, and of the Baker Resource Area, has evolved in significant ways. In the past almost all fires were suppressed as quickly and completely as possible. Today fire management tries, wherever feasible, to take advantage of the natural role of fire in forest and rangeland ecosystems. Prescribed burning has increased to improve wildlife habitat and forage conditions, and the resource area considers modified suppression of natural ignitions to help achieve resource objectives. BLM lands on Hunt Mountain have also been included in a cooperative BLM-USFS fire management plan for the Elkhorn Range that emphasizes the role of wildfire in the area.



**Table 17 - Forest Management by Alternative**

A. No Action	B. Commodity Production	C. Balanced	D. Natural Environment Protection
1. Current yearly allowable harvest of 3.2 MMBF would continue on all commercial forest land.	1. The annual harvest would be increased to approximately 4.5 MMBF. Small clearcuts would be allowed in mixed conifer stands.	1. The annual harvest would be approximately 3.2 MMBF. Harvest levels would be adjusted to accommodate other significant resource values.	1. The annual harvest would be reduced to approximately 2.2 MMBF and would occur in areas with no conflicts with natural values or where disease or insect problems need to be treated. This level may be adjusted to accommodate salvage required by attacks of insects, disease or wildfire.
2. Planting, commercial and precommercial thinnings, and site preparation would continue to be sporadic.	2. Precommercial thinning would occur on approximately 200 acres per year. Planting and site preparation would occur on a regular basis.	2. Precommercial thinning, site preparation and planting would be consistent with maintaining the allowable cut and enhancing other resource values, primarily wildlife habitat and watershed.	2. Precommercial thinning, site preparation and planting would be allowed only to enhance natural values or where consistent with other objectives.

**Table 18 - Baker Resource Area Fire Statistics 1970 - 1983**

	Total Number of Fires	Lightning Caused	Man Caused	Total Acreage Burned	Lightning Caused	Man Caused
Total	392	117	275	17,643	9,351	8,292
Average Per Year	28	8	20	1,260	668	592

**Table 19 - Fire Management By Alternative**

A. No Action	B. Commodity Production	C. Balanced	D. Natural Environment Protection
1. The present fire management program would be continued, and would be guided by the district's 'Normal Fire Year Management Plan.'	1. Fires that threaten personal property, improvements, or would cause short term losses in resources such as range and forest would be quickly and completely controlled.	1. Fires that threaten personal property, improvements, or would cause long term losses in resources such as range and forest would be quickly and completely controlled. A fire management plan would be implemented that would emphasize prescribed burning and management of natural ignitions to benefit habitat and meet ecosite objectives.	1. Fires that threaten personal property, improvements, or unique or special elements in ACEC's or SMA's would be quickly and completely controlled. A fire management plan would be implemented that would emphasize prescribed burning and management of natural ignitions to benefit habitat and meet ecosite objectives.
2. Rehabilitation would be done on a case by case basis, and would consider the appropriate seeding of native and non-native species.	2. Same as A.	2. Rehabilitation would be included in the fire management plan.	Same as C.



# Cultural Resources

Six percent of the planning area has been inventoried, and 242 prehistoric sites and 62 historic sites have been identified.

Prehistoric sites span the period from 10,000 to 180 years ago, and include central base campsites, burial sites, tool manufacturing sites, rockshelters and rock art. Ten prehistoric sites are found on BLM land within the Snake River National Register Archeological District.

Known historic sites date from the 1860's to the 1930's, and include remnants of Chinese occupations (1860-1870), gold mining sites (1860-1930), and ranching and homesteading remains (1862-1930). None of the eligible BLM historic sites have been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Segments of the Oregon National Historic Trail occur on nine BLM locations in the planning area, and several other sites occur on federal or private land in the region. Seven miles of the Oregon Trail are on the Boardman Bombing Range and are protected under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense.

Table 20 describes cultural resource management by alternative.

# Paleontological Resources

No systematic inventory of paleontological resources has been conducted, but 11 sites with plant or animal fossils have been discovered on BLM lands in the resource area. Most of these fossil sites are Miocene-Pleistocene deposits in the Unity-Upper Burnt River area. No known fossil sites occur on BLM lands in the northern counties in the planning area. Table 21 describes alternatives for managing paleontological resources.

On a regionwide scale, several formations yield abundant plant and animal fossils. Pre-Cenozoic marine invertebrates, such as clams and nautiloids, are found in limestone and shale formations in the Blue and Wallowa Mountains. Cenozoic subtropical plants and vertebrates are contained in Clarno beds in the eastern Blue Mountains and margin of the Deschutes-Umatilla Plateau. Several marsh-environment floral specimens and Miocene forest remains are found along the Burnt and Powder River basins and in a few localities in Hell's Canyon.

Table 20 - Cultural Resource Management by Alternative

A. No Action	B. Commodity Production	C. Balanced	D. Natural Environment Protection
1. Cultural resources inventories would be performed in response to individual surface disturbing projects. Protective stipulations would be developed as needed.	1. Same as A.	1. Same as A.	1. Same as A.
2. Custodial management would be performed for all known sites.	2. Same as A.	2. Twenty-eight National Register-eligible sites would be enhanced through intensive management, such as stabilization, investigation and interpretation.	2. All National Register-eligible (approximately 100) sites would be intensively managed.
3. Intermittent site monitoring would occur on National Register eligible sites. Annual monitoring would occur on Oregon Trail sites.	3. Same as A.	3. Monitoring would increase on National Register-eligible sites.	3. Same as C.
Seven miles of Oregon Trail are on the Boardman Bombing Range, and are protected under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense.			
4. No new sites would be nominated to the National Register.	4. Same as A.	4. Would nominate 2 Districts and 12 sites eligible for the National Register.	4. Same as C.



Table 21 - Paleontological Resource Management By Alternative

A. No Action	B. Commodity Production	C. Balanced	D. Natural Environment Protection
1. Paleontological resources would be maintained and protected in response to individual surface disturbing projects.	1. Same as A.	1. Same as A.	1. Same as A. In addition, known sites would be evaluated and potential sites would be inventoried.
2. Custodial management of known sites would occur.	2. Same as A.	2. Same as A.	2. Known sites would be monitored regularly.

Recreation Management

BLM lands in the planning area are heavily used for hunting, camping, float boating and off road vehicle use (refer to Table 22). The northern portion of the resource area consists mostly of small, scattered parcels of public land that primarily provide recreation opportunities for local communities. An exception is the Grande Ronde River, which is a primary recreation destination, has a substantial amount of BLM land, and is managed cooperatively between the BLM and the Forest Service.



Grande Ronde River, Wallowa County.

The southern portion of the resource area consists of larger blocks of BLM managed land and contains the majority of the developed BLM recreation sites in the planning area. The southern portion also provides two designated Off Road Vehicle Areas, an Oregon Trail interpretive site, and offers diverse recreation opportunities for local and regional residents.

Significant recreation lands in the resource area have been classified as either Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) or Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMAs). (Refer to Table 23). Special Recreation Management Areas are generally of national or regional importance and require intensive management to achieve recreation objectives. There are two SRMAs in the Resource Area: the Grande Ronde River and Flagstaff Hill, which is an interpretive site on the National Oregon Historic Trail.

Extensive Recreation Management Areas are areas where recreation opportunities and problems are more local in character, and generally less intensive management is needed to achieve recreation objectives. There are 14 ERMAs in the resource area. Three of these are developed recreation sites: the Spring Rec Site, Bassar Diggins and South Fork Walla Walla River. The Virtue Flat and Denny Flat ERMAs are established areas for off road vehicle events.

Table 24 describes recreation management by alternative.

Table 22 - Top Five Recreational Uses Within the Baker Resource Area

Activity (Public Land)	(1984 Estimated) Visitor Days
Hunting (big game, small game, upland game, waterfowl)	62,000
Developed Recreation Site Use	60,000
Fishing	56,000
Float Boating (river use)	28,000
Off-Road Vehicle Use	10,000
Total	206,000



**Table 23 - Estimated Visitor Use on BLM Administered Public Lands**

<b>Recreation Management Area</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>1984 Estimated Visitor Days</b>	<b>Primary Recreation Activities</b>
<b>SMRA</b>			
Oregon Trail (Flagstaff Hill)	Baker	6,000	Historical Interpretation Sightseeing
Grande Ronde River	Union, Asotin, WA Wallowa	24,000	Floating, Fishing, Hunting, Sightseeing
<b>ERMA - Use Area</b>			
Spring Rec. Site	Baker	56,000	Camping, Boating, Fishing, Hunting
SF Walla Walla River	Umatilla	11,000	Camping, Fishing, Hunting, Sightseeing
Bassar Diggins	Baker	4,000	Camping, Hunting,
Burnt River	Baker	6,000	Camping, Fishing, Hunting, rockhounding
Sheep Mountain	Baker	6,000	Backpacking, Hunting, horseback riding
Oxbow Mountain	Baker	4,000	Hunting, Horseback riding, Backpacking
Lookout Mountain	Baker	8,000	Hunting, Sightseeing
Virtue Flat	Baker	6,000	Off-Road Vehicles
Denny Flat	Baker	2,000	ORV, Sightseeing
Snake River Breaks	Baker	28,000	Hunting, Sightseeing
Powder River	Baker	8,000	Fishing, Hunting, Hiking
John Day River	Umatilla	5,000	Fishing, Hunting, Bckpckng
Brownlee Reservoir	Baker	47,000	Fishing, Boating, Sghtsng
Hells Canyon Reservoir	Baker	36,000	Fishing, Boating, Sghtsng
	Wallowa		
<b>Total</b>		<b>247,000</b>	

## Special Management Areas

Special Management Areas (SMAs) contain unique resource values that deserve special designation and management attention. These areas may be set aside as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), Research Natural Areas (RNAs), Outstanding Natural Areas (ONAs) and other special designations

Nominations for Special Management Areas were requested from the public and BLM's resource specialists. Twenty-one SMAS were nominated and have been considered for either designation or further study. Refer to Table 25 for a description of proposed SMAs, and to Table 26 for management of proposed SMAs by alternative. Refer to Map 4 for the location of potential special management areas.

## Noxious Weeds

Infestations of noxious weeds are known to occur on some BLM lands in the planning area. Chemical, biological and mechanical methods of control will be proposed and subjected to site-specific environmental analysis prior to control. Control methods will not be considered unless the weeds are confined to BLM lands or efforts are coordinated with actions being taken on adjoining infested non-BLM lands.

## Wilderness

Wilderness will not be addressed as an issue in the RMP because wilderness designation is the subject of a separate study and environmental analysis that has preceeded the RMP. A portion of the McGraw Creek Wilderness Study Area (WSA) was designated as wilderness through passage of the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984. The Bureau of Land Management's Oregon Statewide Wilderness



**Table 24 - Recreation Management By Alternative**

A. No Action	B. Commodity Production	C. Balanced	D. Natural Environment Protection
1. Current agreement with U.S. Forest Service for cooperative management on the Grande Ronde River (with the U.S. Forest Service as the lead) would be continued.	1. Same as A.	1. BLM would assume lead for management of Grande Ronde River.	1. Same as A. In addition, designation of the Grande Ronde as a component of Wild and Scenic River system would be sought.
2. Facilities for the Flagstaff Hill (Oregon Trail) Special Management Recreation Area (SMRA) would be maintained.	2. Same as A.	2. Same as A. In addition, this SRMA would be Recommended for withdrawal from mineral entry, and interpretive programs would be developed.	2. Same as C.
3. Existing facilities on Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMA) would be maintained.	3. Existing facilities on ERMAs would be redesigned to accommodate increased visitor use.	3. Same as B.	3. Same as B.
4. Limited facilities on two additional ERMAs would be developed.	4. Additional facilities would be developed on all ERMAs that do not conflict with minerals, forestry or range.	4. Additional facilities on the fourteen identified ERMAs would be developed.	4. Additional facilities would be developed on ERMA sites that do not have significant conflicts with soils/watershed, riparian, aquatic or wildlife resources.



Typical habitat, Big Lookout Mountain



**Table 25 - Potential Special Management Areas**

Area	Proposed Designation	Acreage	Nominee	Values
Grande Ronde River (USFS Boundary to Snake River)	ACEC	7,745	BLM	Candidate for National & Scenic River, anadromous fishery, bald eagle wintering and potential nesting habitat, elk winter range, bighorn sheep winter range scenic, Goosenecks National Natural Landmark, National Register Archaeologic District, watershed, special plant species.
Joseph Creek	ONA/ACEC	3,280	BLM	Fourth order stream segment, with riparian zone (ONHP <sup>1</sup> cell need), bald eagle and bighorn sheep winter habitat, scenic.
Keating Reservoir (Clover, Balm, Sheep, Sawmill Creeks)	RNA/ACEC	2,440	BLM Nature Conservancy	Low elevation riparian vegetation (ONHP cell need), potential sharp-tailed grouse reintroduction sites, crucial deer winter range, cultural values.
Powder River Canyon	ACEC	4,000	BLM Nature Conservancy	Excellent raptor nesting habitat, bald eagle winter habitat, wildlife habitat, scenic, cultural.
Unity Reservoir Bald Eagle	ACEC	360	BLM U.S. Forest Service	Bald eagle potential nesting habitat.
Haplopappus Radiatus (Jordan Creek)	ACEC	10	BLM	Federally listed T&E plant.
Hunt Mountain	ACEC	2,200	BLM Nature Conservancy	State listed T/E plants, diverse sub-alpine plant communities, mountain goat habitat, wildlife habitat, whitebark pine community, scenic.
Oregon Trail	ACEC	1,480	BLM	Historic sites on a national historic trail.
Little Lookout Mountain	ACEC	3,720	BLM	Diverse bunchgrass, fir, and aspen communities, wildlife habitat (summer range for deer), formerly sharp-tailed grouse habitat.
Big Lookout Mountain	ACEC	1,500	BLM	Unique aspen cover, crucial deer summer range, watershed, diverse plant communities.
Sheep Mountain	ACEC	7,000	BLM	Crucial bald eagle wintering habitat, scenic, diverse plant communities including bitterbrush-bunchgrass, wildlife habitat, special plant species.
Homestead	ACEC	6,300	BLM	Bald eagle wintering habitat, scenic, wildlife habitat, deer winter range, scenic, special plant species.
Love Reservoir	Needs further study	640	ONHP Data Base	Waterfowl habitat, bunchgrass communities.
Burnt River Canyon	Needs further study	6,720	BLM Nature Conservancy	Unusual and diverse plant communities, wildlife habitat, bighorn sheep reintroduction sites, riparian habitat, scenic.
Snake River Breaks	Needs further study	9,600	BLM Nature Conservancy	Bald eagle habitat, scenic.
Juniper Canyon	Needs further study	1,648	BLM	Unstabilized sand ecosystems.
Mt. Harris	Needs further study	40	BLM	Past, potential barred owl nesting habitat.
McNary Ponds	Needs further study	340	BLM	Waterfowl habitat.
Unity Paleontological Area	Needs further study	3,200	BLM	Vertebrate and plant fossils.
Squaw Creek Drainage	Needs further study	720	ONHP Data Base	Fish habitat.
Thief Valley Reservoir	Needs further study	50	ONHP Data Base	Pygmy rabbit habitat.

<sup>1</sup>Oregon Natural Heritage Program.



**Table 26 - Special Management Areas By Alternative**

A. No Action	B. Commodity Production	C. Balanced	D. Natural Environment Protection
1. One RNA is on public lands in the Boardman Bombing Range, but is under the jurisdiction of Dept of Defense. No other ACECs, RNAs or ONAs would occur in the planning area.	1. SMAs would be designated where no resource conflicts exist. One ONA/ACEC would be designated:  ONA/ACEC - Joseph Creek	1. SMAs would be designated where no significant resource conflicts exist. One ONA, one RNA, and five ACECs would be designated:  ONA/ACEC - Joseph Creek <sup>1</sup>  RNA/ACEC - Keating Valley Riparian RNA, <sup>2</sup> including habitat on Clover Creek and Balm Creek. ACEC - Hunt Mountain Oregon Trail (7 parcels) Unity Reservoir, Bald Eagle Nesting Area Grande Ronde River Powder River Canyon	1. SMAs that clearly qualify would be designated, without regard to resource conflicts. One ONA, one RNA, and ten ACECs would be designated.  ONA/ACEC - Joseph Creek RNA/ACEC - Keating Valley Riparian RNA, including habitat on Clover Creek, Balm Creek, Sheep Creek, and Sawmill Creek. ACEC - Unity Reservoir, Bald Eagle Nesting Area Happlopapus T&E Plant Area Grande Ronde River Powder River Canyon Sheep Mountain WSA Oregon Trail (7 parcels) Big Lookout Mountain Little Lookout Mountain Hunt Mountain Homestead WSA In addition, nine areas would be identified for further study.
2. Special or unique elements that are associated with designated SMAs and occur in the resource area would be protected by stipulations placed on surface disturbing activities.	2. Same as A.	2. Develop site plans to protect designated areas. Protect special elements on undesignated areas with stipulations on surface disturbing activities.	2. Same as C.

<sup>1</sup>Part to be designated as ACEC.

<sup>2</sup>Part to be designated as ACEC.

Environmental Impact Statement addresses the Sheep Mountain WSA and Homestead WSA. The balance of the McGraw Creek WSA, not designated as wilderness, will be addressed in a supplement to the Draft Oregon Wilderness EIS.

## Withdrawal Review

Review of withdrawals will be completed by 1991. These withdrawals may be continued, modified or revoked. Revocation of withdrawals will be recommended by BLM where they are no longer needed or where they are in conflict with the RMP. Upon revocation or modification, part or all of the withdrawn land may revert to BLM management.



# Glossary of Terms

**Adjustments** — Changes in animal numbers, periods of use, kinds or class of animals or management practices as warranted by specific conditions.

**Allotment** — An area of land where one or more livestock operators graze their livestock. Allotments generally consist of public lands administered by the BLM, but may include other federally managed, state owned or private lands. An allotment may include one or more separate pastures. Livestock numbers and periods of use are specified for each allotment where BLM controls use.

**Anadromous** — Fish that migrate from the ocean to breed and spawn in fresh water. Their offspring return to the ocean.

**Animal Unit Month (AUM)** — A standardized measurement of the amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow equivalent unit for one month.

**Aquatic** — Living or growing in or on the water.

**Archaeological Site** — Geographic locale containing structures, artifacts, material remains, and/or other evidence of past human activity.

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)** — Places within public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historical, cultural or visual values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

**Big Game Animals** — Limited to elk, mule deer, antelope and bighorn sheep in the Two Rivers Planning Area.

**Board Foot** — A unit of solid wood, one foot square and one inch thick.

**Catchment** — A structure built to collect and retain water.

**Clearcutting** — A method of harvesting timber in which all trees, merchantable or unmerchantable, are cut from an area.

**Commercial Forestland** — Forest land that is now producing, or is capable of producing, at least 20 cubic feet of wood per acre per year of commercial tree species.

**Commodity Resources** — Goods or products of economic use or value.

**Cultural Resources** — Fragile and nonrenewable elements of the environment including archaeological remains (evidence of prehistoric or historic human activities) and sociocultural values traditionally held by ethnic groups (sacred places, traditionally utilized raw materials, etc. ).

**Cultural Site** — Any location that includes prehistoric and/or historic evidence of human use, or that has important sociocultural value.

**Diversity** — A measure of the variety of species and habitats in an area that takes into account the relative abundance of each species or habitat.

**Endangered Species** — A plant or animal species whose prospects for survival or reproduction are in immediate danger as designated by the Secretary of the Interior and as further defined by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** — A formal document to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency that considers significant environmental impacts expected from implementation of federal actions.

**Erosion** — Detachment and movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice or gravity.

**Exclosure** — An area fenced to exclude livestock.

**Forage** — All browse and herbaceous plants that are available to grazing animals, including wildlife and domestic livestock.

**Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)** — Public Law 94-579 of October 21, 1976, often referred to as the BLM "Organic Act," which provides the majority of BLM legislated authority, direction, policy and basic guidance for management.

**Forestland** — Land which is now, or is capable of being, at least 10 percent stocked by forest trees,



and is not currently developed for nontimber use.

**Habitat** — A specific set of physical conditions that surround a species group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major constituents of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover and living space.

**Habitat Management Plan** — A plan for the management of wildlife habitat.

**Habitat Type** — The collective area which one plant association occupies or will come to occupy as succession advances. The habitat type is defined and described on the basis of the vegetation and associated environment.

**Issue** — A subject or question of widespread public discussion or interest regarding management of public lands within the Prineville District and identified through public participation.

**Impact** — A spatial or temporal change in the human environment caused by man. The change should be (1) perceptible, (2) measurable, and (3) relatable through a change agent to a management activity or alternative.

**Leasable Minerals** — Minerals subject to lease by the federal government, including oil, gas and coal.

**Locatable Minerals** — Generally the metallic minerals subject to development specified in the General Mining Law of 1872; with the resource area, includes bentonite gypsum, uranium minerals, etc.

**Management Framework Plan (MFP)** — Land use plan that established coordinated land use allocations for all resource and support activities for a specific land area within a BLM District. It also establishes objectives and constraints for each resource and support activity and provides data for consideration in program planning. (This process has been replaced by the Resource Management Planning process.)

**Mineral Entry** — The location of mining claims by an individual to protect his right to a valuable mineral.

**Multiple Use** — Balanced management of the various surface and subsurface resources with

permanent impairment of the productivity of the lands that will best meet present and future needs.

**Mitigation Measures** — Methods or procedures committed to by BLM for the purpose of reducing or lessening the impacts of an action.

**National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)** — A register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects, significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture, established by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and maintained by the Secretary of the Interior.

**Noxious Weeds** — A weed specified by law as being especially undesirable, troublesome and difficult to control.

**Off Road Vehicle (ORV)** — Any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed, for travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding: (1) any nonamphibious registered motorboat; (2) emergency vehicles; and (3) vehicles in official use.

**Outstanding Natural Area (ONA)** — An area of unusual natural characteristics where management of recreation activities is necessary to preserve those characteristics.

**Paleontology** — A science dealing with the life of past geological periods as known from fossil remains.

**Perennial (Permanent) Stream** — A stream that ordinarily has running water on a year round basis.

**Period of Use** — The time of livestock grazing on a range area based on the type of vegetation or stage of vegetative growth.

**Permit/Leases (Grazing)** — Under Section 3 of the Taylor Grazing Act, a permit is a document authorizing use of public lands within grazing districts for the purpose of grazing livestock. Under Section 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act, a lease is a document authorizing livestock grazing use of public lands outside grazing districts.

**Planning Area** — A geographic area within the Vale BLM District used for assembling resource inventory data.

**Prehistoric** — Refers to a period wherein Native



American cultural activities took place which were not yet influenced by contact with historic non native culture(s).

**Prescribed Fire/Burn** — A planned burning of live or dead vegetation under favorable conditions which would achieve desired management objectives.

**Public Lands** — Any land and interest in land owned by the United States Government and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management. It may include public domain or acquired lands in any combination.

**Range Improvement** — A structure, excavation, treatment or development to rehabilitate, protect or improve public lands to advance range betterment.

**Raptors** — Bird species with sharp talons and strongly curved beaks which have adapted to seize prey (e. g. eagles, hawks, etc. )

**Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP Act)** — This act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to lease or convey public lands for recreational and public purposes under specified conditions to states or their political subdivisions, and to nonprofit corporations and associations.

**Research Natural Areas** — Areas established and maintained for research and education. The general public may be excluded or restricted where necessary to protect studies or preserve research natural areas. Lands may have (1) typical or unusual faunistic or floristic types, associations, or other biotic phenomena, or (2) characteristic or outstanding geologic, pedologic, or aquatic features or processes.

**Right of Way** — A permit or an easement which authorizes the use of public lands for certain specified purposes, commonly for pipelines, roads, telephone lines, electric lines, reservoirs, etc. , and also the lands covered by such an easement or permit.

**Riparian Area** — A terrestrial site influenced by perennial and intermittent waters which in combination with the water table level, soils and vegetation create a microclimate apart from that which exists on the upland terrestrial sites. These areas are found adjacent to rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, marshes, seeps, springs, bogs and wet meadows.

**Saleable Minerals** — High volume, low value mineral resources including common varieties of rock, clay, decorative stone, sand, and gravel.

**Soil** — The unconsolidated mineral material on the immediate surface of the earth that serves as a natural medium for the growth of land plants.

**Special Management Areas** --- See Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Outstanding Natural Areas (ONA) and Research Natural Areas (RNA).

**Threatened Species** — A plant or animal species the Secretary of Interior has determined to be endangered in the foreseeable future throughout all or most of its range.

**Visitor Day** — Twelve hours of recreational use by one or more persons.

**Water Quality** — The chemical, physical and biological characteristics of water with respect to its suitability for a particular use.

**Watershed** — All lands which are enclosed by a continuous hydrologic drainage divide and lie upslope from a specified point on a stream.











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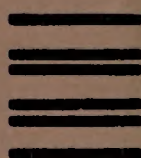
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